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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/669,315	09/25/2003	Keiji Kato	1247-0515P	4142
2292	7590	08/15/2005	EXAMINER	
BIRCH STEWART KOLASCH & BIRCH			GLEITZ, RYAN M	
PO BOX 747			ART UNIT	
FALLS CHURCH, VA 22040-0747			PAPER NUMBER	
			2852	

DATE MAILED: 08/15/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/669,315	Applicant(s) KATO ET AL. 	
	Examiner Ryan Gleitz	Art Unit 2852	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 02 June 2005.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-13 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 11-13 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6 and 9 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 7, 8 and 10 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 25 September 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Specification

The title of the invention is not descriptive. A new title is required that is clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-6 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Kaneshige (US 4,912,509).

Kaneshige discloses an image forming apparatus including an image forming apparatus main body (1); image forming unit (8) is a process frame body including at least a photoconductive body (1), image forming means as the light from transmitter (4) for forming an electrostatic latent image on a surface of the photoconductive body (2), and a frame main body. Development device (5) must include at least development means for developing the electrostatic latent image using toner, toner supply means for feeding toner to the development means, and a development device main body for holding the development means and the toner supply means.

A mechanism is provided which permits the image forming unit and developing unit to be mounted on or dismounted from the image forming apparatus in the proper order (abstract, lines 3-8), which reads on the process frame body (8) and the development device (5) being attachable to and detachable from the image forming apparatus main body (1) in a predetermined

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order, the process frame body (8) and the development device (5) each having attachment/detachment order controlling means for preventing the process frame body (8) and the development device (5) from being attached and detached in an order different from the predetermined order.

For example, process frame body (8) has guide (8b) and positioning hole (8a) as part of the attachment/detachment order controlling means, and developing device (5) has positioning boss (54) as part of the attachment/detachment order controlling means.

Regarding claims 3-5, the attachment/detachment order controlling means (8a, 54, 8b, 1c) is built as an engagement portion, for example positioning hole (8a) on the process frame body (8) as a concavity which is brought into engagement state in association with attachment operation of the component to be attached subsequently, the engagement portion, for example positioning boss (54) of the developing device (5) as a convexity, and is brought into disengagement state in association with detachment operation of the component to be detached first. The positioning boss (54) and hole (8a) are created by forming part of each of the process frame body and the development device into a certain shape.

Regarding claim 6, first the process frame body (8) is attached and then the development device (5) is attached, and the attachment/detachment order controlling means of the process frame body is formed of a guide portion for guiding the attachment of the development device, whereas the attachment/detachment order controlling means of the development device (5) is formed of a to-be-guided portion which is guided by the guide portion. See col. 4, lines 1-21.

Regarding claim 9, the development device further comprises pressure-contact means, as shown in figure 2b, for contacting under pressure, when the process frame body (8) and the development device (5) are attached.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 11-13 are allowed.

Claims 7, 8 and 10 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Claims 11-13 are considered patentable because of the inclusion of the claim limitations, a first portion on a second functional unit to cover the release mechanism of a first functional unit having image forming capability to prevent the first functional unit from being installed in the opening after the second functional unit, that are not taught by the prior art.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 2 June 2005 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant submit that the attachment/detachment control in Kaneshige is performed only by sliding block 15, which is not part of each functional unit. However, the attachment/detachment control in Kaneshige is also performed by positioning hole (8a), guide (8b), and positioning boss (54). Positioning hole (8a) and guide (8b) are part of the image forming unit. Positioning boss (54) is part of the developing unit.

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

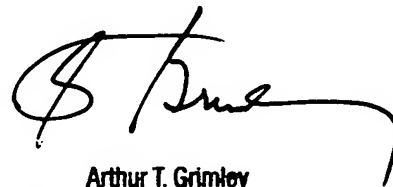
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ryan Gleitz whose telephone number is (571) 272-2134. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday between 9:00AM and 6:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Arthur Grimley can be reached on (571) 272-2136. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business-Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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